

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical granule preparation that is dispersed in an aqueous liquid before administration, the pharmaceutical granule preparation comprising:

~~active granules~~ a first granule comprising a pharmaceutically active substance a proton pump inhibitor, wherein said ~~active granules contain~~ first granule contains seeds having a coating that contains the ~~pharmaceutically active substance~~ proton pump inhibitor and wherein said ~~active granules have~~ first granule has an average particle diameter of 2 mm or less,

~~placebo granules~~, a second granule comprising blended and pulverized mannitol, crospovidone, citric acid and light anhydrous silicic acid, that was granulated by mixing with purified water, dried and sized, wherein said second granule has a size and a density similar to those of said first granule ~~wherein said placebo granules and said second granule~~ [[are]] is an extender for ~~the active granules~~ said first granule and improve handling of said granule preparation upon administration, and

a thickening agent selected from the group consisting of methyl cellulose, propylene glycol alginate, xanthan gum, purified gelatin, hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC), hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), sodium polycarboxymethyl cellulose (CMC-Na), macrogol and povidone; and

wherein said granule preparation is administered to a patient through a naso-gastric tube after dispersing in an aqueous liquid.

2. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 1, wherein ~~the active granules~~ said first granule further ~~comprise~~ comprises a functional polymer, wherein the functional polymer is at least one gastric polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyvinyl acetal diethylaminoacetate, and aminoalkyl methacrylate copolymers, an enteric polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose acetate succinate, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, methacrylic acid copolymer L and methacrylic acid copolymer LD and a sustained release polymer selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid copolymer S, aminoalkyl methacrylate copolymer RS and ethyl cellulose, said gastric polymers, enteric polymers and sustained release polymers can be used alone or in combination.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~[[to 3]]~~ or 2, wherein the thickening agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol alginate, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sodium polycarboxymethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 1, wherein said granule preparation is dispersed in water and has a viscosity of 10 to 1500 mPa·s.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is at least one selected from the group consisting of rabeprazole, omeprazole, esomeprazole, lansoprazole and pantoprazole.

9. (Cancelled).